

RURAL HEALTH CONNECT

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Improving the Health of Rural Communities

The Utah Department of Health Office of Primary Care and Rural Health (OPCRH) is happy to announce many new features and plans in the coming months as we move forward to meet the needs of our rural health partners. Many of these will be launched on National Rural Health Day!



To celebrate and recognize National Rural Health Day, our office would like to announce the following upcoming events:

- The launching of a brand new interactive website found here: (<https://ruralhealth.health.utah.gov>)
- The start of an on going communication via list service email, and a regular, monthly interactive newsletter
- **An open house at our Highland Building office (address below) from 12:00 - 4:00 PM MST. Please join us if you can, there will be light refreshments served!**
- Annual Rural Photo Contest (winners announced on November 15)

To enter a photo to be considered for our photo contest, click the link below:

[National Rural Health Day Photo Contest](#)

Meet the New OPCRH Team

Matt McCullough



Director

Matt has been in this position since August 2017 and enjoys working with the many partners we have throughout the state to achieve our vision of improving access to quality health care services in rural and underserved communities. Matt is currently pursuing a PhD in Medical Geography at the University of Utah and would love the opportunity to tell you what that means! Matt's focus as the new Director of the office is to collaborate and build strong partnerships and relationships with other agencies and individuals who share a similar vision and mission. He looks forward to doing great things in the state and being part of an extraordinary office that is transparent, efficient and provides great customer service.

Robbin Williams **Workforce Development**

Robbin Williams is the program coordinator for the *Primary Care Grant Program*, the *Rural Physician Loan Repayment Program* and the *Health Care Workforce Financial Assistance Program*. She began working in the office in July 2016 and loves what she does. Creating and maintaining working relationship with our partners and customers is something she enjoys and is good at. Robbin is dedicated to helping Utah to better serve our rural and underserved communities. Robbin has worked for the State of Utah for 10 years in a variety roles, including Human Resources and with The Governor's Office of Economic Development.



Colton Gordon **Workforce Development**

Colton Gordon is the program coordinator for *Assistance for People with Bleeding Disorders Program* and the GIS/Data Specialist for the office. He began working in the office in May 2015 as an intern performing data management and has since procured a full-time position. Colton enjoys creating and analyzing maps, working with data, and assisting our partners and team members to better serve our rural and underserved communities. Colton has recently finished a BS in Public Health, a BS in Global Health and a minor in Human Biology. Colton's goals are to work with our partners in



creating innovative ways to create healthier Utah communities and to make all OPCRH data accessible, palatable, and accurate for our communities to utilize.

Holli Childs **Workforce Development**

Holli Childs is the Senior Research Analyst in the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health and the coordinator for Utah's Primary Care Office (PCO) Program. She earned her Master of Public Health from Boston University in 2016 where she studied the impact of transportation on access to healthcare services and overall health. She has spent the last two years working for the Utah Department of Health helping to ensure access to quality primary healthcare services. She loves reading, being outdoors, and going for walks with her husband and daughter.



Hannah Robinson **Rural Hospital Support**



Hannah Robinson is the program coordinator for the *Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program (FLEX)* and the *Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP)*. Hannah's educational background is in biological sciences and public health. She received her B.S. in Neuroscience from the University of California-San Diego in 2016 and two years later received her MPH from the University of Utah. Hannah's interest in rural health stemmed from years of experience working in a hospital setting, co-authoring the Utah Primary Care Needs Assessment during an internship with OPCRH, and her graduate research focused on health disparities and improving access to care for vulnerable and underserved communities.

Marie Frankos State Office of Rural Health

Marie is the program coordinator for the *State Office of Rural Health (SORH)*. She has been with OPCRH since April, 2018; she has had an extensive healthcare career in both the clinical setting as a Registered Dental Hygienist and the educational setting as a college professor; she also has experience as an epidemiologist for the Salt Lake County Health Department. Marie holds a Masters Degree in Public Health from Westminster College, and a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene & Health Services Administration from Weber State University. Her passion throughout her career has been bridging access to preventive dental care and health services for all residents of the state of Utah, regardless of ability to pay. She is excited to get to work with SORH to enhance communication and relationships with our rural health care partners.



Vicki Allison Office Specialist

Vicki Allison is the Office Specialist for the Utah Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, she has been in this office since December 2017. As the Office Specialist, her responsibilities are not limited to the day-to-day office routines; Vicki appreciates that the OPCRH staff are encouraged to stretch their imagination to create new ideas and use them as building blocks to provide support for our underserved and rural communities. With new and innovative measures and a motivated office director, "we are encouraged to reach out and support all rural and underserved areas." Vicki appreciates her role as OPCRH Office Specialist; she supports and assists other staff members with their projects and is always growing in knowledge of Utah's rural and



underserved communities.

The **State Office of Primary Care and Rural Health (OPCRH)** will be sending these emails on a regular and recurring basis to keep you updated and informed of current events and important information! To ensure you continue to receive these vital emails, click below to update your information and *add any other email addresses* of those in your organization who would

also benefit from our publications.



UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION



Local Events

This section is where you will find local events and areas of interest

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

In every issue, this is where you will find national rural health support organizations which are important to rural communities, healthcare facilities and providers



This Section is where you will find information from the Rural Health Information Hub ([RHIHub](#))

This section is where you will find links and information from the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy, a division of the Health Resources and Services Administration ([HRSA](#))



This section is where you will find information from the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health which is the Membership Organization of State Offices of Rural Health ([NOSORH](#))

We are here for you!

Our office is located in the beautiful Holladay/Millcreek

area of Salt Lake City
Our address is:

3760 S Highland Drive
Suite 361C
SLC, UT 84106



The OPCRH provides support to our stakeholders and clients in the form of hands-on support, economic impact analysis, research, community health needs assessments, and healthcare workforce needs assessment. We also provide technical assistance and pertinent information on student loan repayment programs and grant opportunities

This is Your Communication Gateway!

If you would like to be a part of our newsletter in the future and/or would like to submit a success story, announcement or any other information you wish to communicate to us or your rural health partners, please contact Marie Frankos, MPH, SORH Program Specialist at mfrankos@utah.gov or 801.273.6605

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